

CLAIMS

1. A method for generating a business case for an alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to a baseline server infrastructure scenario, comprising the steps of:
 - determining an investment cost for said alternative server infrastructure scenario;
 - determining an incremental savings in operating costs for said alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to said baseline server infrastructure scenario;
 - determining an incremental business value to a supported business operation of said alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to said baseline server infrastructure scenario;
 - and
 - determining whether the total benefit represented by said incremental savings in operating costs and said incremental business value justifies said investment cost for said alternative server infrastructure scenario.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - determining resource requirements for said server infrastructure scenarios, said investment cost and said incremental savings in operating costs being determined from said resource requirements.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - determining performance metrics for said server infrastructure scenarios, said incremental business value being determined from said performance metrics.
4. The method of claim 1 in which said steps are performed for a plurality of alternative server infrastructure scenarios.
5. The method of claim 1 in which said alternative server infrastructure scenario is a grid-based scenario.

6. The method of claim 1 in which said investment cost is an incremental investment cost of said alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to said baseline server infrastructure scenario.

7. The method of claim 1 in which said step of determining whether said total benefit justifies said investment cost comprises the step of calculating a rate of return of said total benefit on said investment cost.

8. A system for generating a business case for an alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to a baseline server infrastructure scenario, comprising:

a total cost of ownership (TCO) estimator for determining an investment cost for said alternative server infrastructure scenario and for determining an incremental savings in operating costs for said alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to said baseline server infrastructure scenario;

a business value estimator for determining an incremental business value to a supported business operation of said alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to said baseline server infrastructure scenario; and

a business case builder for determining whether the total benefit represented by said incremental savings in operating costs and said incremental business value justifies said investment cost for said alternative server infrastructure scenario.

9. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a capacity planner for determining resource requirements for said server infrastructure scenarios, said investment cost and said incremental savings in operating costs being determined from said resource requirements.

10. The system of claim 9 in which said capacity planner determines performance metrics for said server infrastructure scenarios, said incremental business value being determined from said performance metrics.

11. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a capacity planner for determining performance metrics for said server infrastructure scenarios, said incremental business value being determined from said resource requirements.

12. The system of claim 8 in which said business case builder calculates a rate of return of said total benefit on said investment cost.

13. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for generating a business case for an alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to a baseline server infrastructure scenario, said method steps comprising:

determining an investment cost for said alternative server infrastructure scenario;

determining an incremental savings in operating costs for said alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to said baseline server infrastructure scenario;

determining an incremental business value to a supported business operation of said alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to said baseline server infrastructure scenario;
and

determining whether the total benefit represented by said incremental savings in operating costs and said incremental business value justifies said investment cost for said alternative server infrastructure scenario.

14. The program storage device of claim 13, said method steps further comprising:

determining resource requirements for said server infrastructure scenarios, said investment cost and said incremental savings in operating costs being determined from said resource requirements.

15. The program storage device of claim 13, said method steps further comprising:

determining performance metrics for said server infrastructure scenarios, said incremental business value being determined from said performance metrics.

16. The program storage device of claim 13 in which said steps are performed for a plurality of alternative server infrastructure scenarios.

17. The program storage device of claim 13 in which said alternative server infrastructure scenario is a grid-based scenario.

18. The program storage device of claim 13 in which said investment cost is an incremental investment cost of said alternative server infrastructure scenario relative to said baseline server infrastructure scenario.

19. The program storage device of claim 13 in which said step of determining whether said total benefit justifies said investment cost comprises the step of calculating a rate of return of said total benefit on said investment cost.